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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

●

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1968.

Westhoughton Urban District Council

Health Committee

Chairman: Councillor R. Hart

Vice Chairman: Councillor H. Booth

Councillors:-

N. Cowburn

J. T. Willett

R. Greenhalgh

C. J. Thomas

Mrs. W. Kettle

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

Ellis Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Wilson Scott Astall

R.S.H. Certificates
Public Health Inspector.
Meat and Other Foods and
Smoke Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

Walter F. Maling

R.S.H. Certificates
Public Health Inspector
and Meat and Other Foods.

Clerical Assistant:

Miss J. Aldred

Cleansing Foreman:

Albert Chadwick

Technical Assistant (Smoke Control):

Donald Ratcliffe



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To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton, for the year, 1968.

STATISTICS

The estimated population of the district in 1968 was 17,430 an increase of 100 on the figure ascertained for 1967.

During the year a total of 254 births were registered, of which 7 were stillborn, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 14.2 as against 17.0 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 28.0 as against 17.0 in 1967.

Six infants failed to survive to their first birthday, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 24.0 for the year, compared with ten deaths and a rate of 34.0 in the previous year.

I am pleased to be able to report that there has been no maternal death. The Maternal Mortality Rate, therefore, remains at nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes, was 249, giving a Crude Death Rate of 14.3 and an adjusted rate of 15.3.

The ratio of the local adjusted birth rate to the national rate is 0.83 and the ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national rate is 1.29. The birth rate is therefore somewhat lower and the death rate somewhat higher than the national average.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the Report, together with certain information in regard to other services.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

During the year the environmental hygiene of the district has been kept under close supervision. Over six thousand visits were made to a wide variety of premises. Seven hundred and forty eight defects or contraventions were discovered and over eleven hundred defects abated. One hundred and seventy five informal notices were served in addition to thirty statutory notices. Each year a large number of people visit the Public Health Department for help and advice and your Inspectors meet

from day to day a wide cross section of the Public. This is of mutual benefit and it is felt that the local knowledge gained, and the more the public understand the work of the Department, the better the chance there is of ensuring that friendly co-operation, so essential to all work of a social nature. During the year the Chief Public Health Inspector addressed local organisations on various aspects of Public Health.

The refuse collection and disposal service has functioned satisfactorily and a weekly collection has been maintained. The 7,049 refuse bins emptied weekly form only a portion of the refuse now collected. The Civic Amenities Act 1967 which came into operation during the middle of the year resulted in the Council considerably extending their collection of bulky refuse - ie. bedsteads; furniture; mattresses etc. from domestic premises free of charge. In the last six months of the year well over three hundred requests for removal of bulky refuse were received at the office. Publicity was also given to arrangements that can be made for the disposal of derelict motor vehicles.

Approximately seventeen hundred dwellings are now subject to Smoke Control Orders and the work of survey on No. 5 Area at Over Hulton commenced towards the end of the year. One officer is employed full time on surveying properties; dealing with firegrate conversions and general administrative work in connection with Smoke Control.

The Brancker Street (No. 1) Clearance Area consisting of fifteen houses was represented by the Medical Officer during the year and six individually unfit houses were also reported to the Council. Thirty two houses have been demolished and three closed during the year. Nineteen families including sixty one persons have been rehoused from unfit property.

Food Hygiene, Factory Inspections; investigation of noise nuisance; housing defects and visits to offices and shops in relation to the welfare of employees continued to occupy a major proportion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors. It is felt that worthwhile progress has been achieved in relation to the matters referred to but the need for constant vigilance in the Public Health field is essential if progress is to be maintained.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

Details of the various diseases concerned, will be found in Section F of the Report.

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area of the district in acres	5,554
Population - 1961 census	16,254
Number of inhabited houses at end of year	6,248
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,954

<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a)	<u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	120	110	230
	Illegitimate	10	7	17
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		130	117	247
	Live Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population)	- 14.2		
(b)	<u>Still Births</u>	4	3	7
	Still Birth Rate (Per 1,000 total births)	- 28.0		
(c)	<u>Total Live and Still Births</u>	<hr/> 134	<hr/> 120	<hr/> 254

(a)	Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	6
(b)	Infant Mortality Rates	
	Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	24.0
	Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.0
	Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	58.0
(c)	Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	20.0
(d)	Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	16.0
(e)	Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	43.0

DEATHS (cont'd)

(f) Maternal Mortality

Number of deaths Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 total
live and stillbirths) Nil

(g) Cancer 34

(h) Heart Disease 80

(i) Measles Nil

(j) Whooping Cough Nil

(k) Bronchitis and Emphysema 15

(l) Pneumonia 9

(m) Tuberculosis - Pulmonary 1

Non-Pulmonary Nil

(n) All causes:-

Male 124

Female 125

Total 249

Death Rate (per 1,000 population)

(a) Crude 14.3

(b) Adjusted 15.3

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales for the
year 1968 with corresponding figures for Westhoughton.

	<u>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</u>	
	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>Westhoughton</u>
<u>BIRTHS:-</u>		
Live Births	16.9	14.2
Still Births	14.3 (a)	28.0 (a)
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All causes	11.9	14.3
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0.043	0.057
Respiratory	0.30.	0.057
+ Other	0.13	Nil
Cancer (all forms)	2.32	1.950
Lung and bronchus	0.59	0.286
Other cancer	1.72	1.664
Maternal Mortality	0.24 (a)	Nil (a)
Infant Mortality	18.3 (b)	24.0 (b)
Neo-natal Mortality	12.4 (b)	20.0 (b)
Early Neo-natal Mortality	10.6 (b)	16.0 (b)
Perinatal Mortality	24.7 (a)	43.0 (a)
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid fever	0.002	Nil
Paratyphoid fever	0.001	Nil
Scarlet fever	0.306	0.114
Whooping cough	0.357	0.173
Diphtheria	0.000	Nil
Erysipelas	0.020	0.057
Smallpox	0.000	Nil
Measles	4.860	1.892
Acute poliomyelitis -		
Paralytic	0.000	Nil
Non-paralytic	0.000	Nil
Acute encephalitis -		
Infective	0.002	Nil
Post-infectious	0.001	Nil
Dysentery	0.401	Nil
Food poisoning	0.122	Nil
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	0.220	0.057
Meninges & C.N.S.	0.001	Nil
Other	0.044	Nil
Anthrax	0.000	Nil
Infective Jaundice	* 0.442 (from 15.6.68)	Nil
Acute meningitis	* 0.021 (" 1.10.68)	Nil
Tetanus	* 0.000 (" 1.10.68)	Nil
Leptospirosis	* 0.000 (" 1.10.68)	Nil
Meningococcal infection	* 0.009 (to 30.9.68)	Nil
Acute pneumonia	* 0.147 (" 30.9.68)	Nil
Puerperal pyrexia	* 0.083 (" 30.9.68)	Nil

Birth and Death Rates (cont'd)

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 live births.

* Calculated annual rate.

+ These figures now include all deaths from "late effects" some of which would formerly have been assigned to "Respiratory Tuberculosis".

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1963 - 1968.

	Live Births	Deaths (all causes)	Stillbirths	Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality						
						Total		Neo-natal				
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of regis- tered deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births		
Year 1968	247	14.2	249	14.3	7	28.0	Nil	Nil	6	24.0	5	20.0
Year 1967	299	17.0	211	12.2	5	17.0	Nil	Nil	10	34.0	7	24.0
Year 1966	300	17.3	258	14.9	8	26.0	Nil	Nil	10	33.3	5	16.7
Year 1965	297	17.0	226	13.0	4	13.3	Nil	Nil	2	6.7	2	6.7
Year 1964	304	17.5	219	13.7	3	9.9	Nil	Nil	4	13.3	Nil	Nil
Year 1963	314	18.6	210	13.4	4	12.6	Nil	Nil	13	41.4	5	15.9
Average 5 years 1963 - 1967	303	17.5	225	13.4	5.0	15.7	Nil	Nil	8.0	25.7	3.8	12.6

The following table gives the number of deaths
from the various causes, during the year - 1968.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	5	5
Carcinoma Cervix	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	8	12	20
Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3
Other Endocrine, etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	3	3
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	4	3	7
Hypertensive Disease	4	3	7
Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	33	64
Other forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	23	26	49
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	9	14
Pneumonia	8	1	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	5	15
Asthma	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
Diseases of Musculo - Skeletal Frame	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1	3
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	1	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	1	1
All Other Accidents	1	3	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	2
Total	124	125	249

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services
for the area

Divisional Medical Officer

Ellis Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
No. 11 Divisional Health Office,
Lancashire County Council,
Leigh Road,
LEIGH, Lancashire.

Telephone: Leigh 73227/8/9.

Ambulance Service

Control Centre

Telephone: Swinton 4343

Care of children - Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire C.C. - Area 11
Acting Area Children's Officer - Miss C. Mathison,
Williams Deacon's Bank Chambers,
Market Street, Leigh.
Telephone: Leigh 74121.

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.

Telephone: Westhoughton 3139.

Clinics

1. Measles Vaccination

- (a) General Practitioner Service.
- (b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
(Details of present arrangements available on request).

2. Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Immunisation and Smallpox and Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

- (a) General Practitioner Service.
- (b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 1.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

3. Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
First and Third Tuesday in month and Thursday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Cricket Pavillion, St. James Street, Westhoughton.
Wednesday 1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Over Hulton Clinic, Salford Road, Over Hulton - Tuesday 2.00 p.m. -
4.00 p.m.

4. Child Guidance Clinic (By arrangement)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
5. Speech Therapy (By arrangement)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
6. Ophthalmic (By appointment)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton. Wednesday - 9.00 a.m.
7. Chiropody (By appointment)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton. Monday and Wednesday
9.30 a.m. - 12 noon for old people.
8. Orthopaedic (By appointment) and Physiotherapy (alternate Wednesdays)
School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich, or Welfare Centre,
Market Street, Westhoughton.
9. Relaxation and Exercises Class for Expectant Mothers
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton. Tuesday 10.00 a.m. -
11.30 a.m.
10. Cervical Cytology (For prevention and early diagnosis of cancer of
the cervix)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
11. Hearing Testing (By appointment)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
12. Dental (By appointment)
Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton. Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday 10.00 a.m.
13. Day Nurseries

There are four nurseries in the division intended primarily for children from nine months to five years, whose mothers have to go out to work because of difficult social circumstances. Application forms may be obtained from the Matron of each of the nurseries, details of which are as follows: LEIGH - Stone House, St. Helens Road (Leigh 72858); Cavendish Street (Leigh 73586); ATHERTON - Gloucester Street (Atherton 248); FARNWORTH - Piggott Street (Farnworth 503).

14. Family Planning Clinics

Information regarding these Clinics is obtainable from the Divisional Health Office or from Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.

15. School Health and Minor Ailment

School Health Clinic Market Street, Westhoughton. Monday 10.00 a.m.

16. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) The Infirmary, Leigh. | (Telephone: Leigh 73344) |
| (b) Civic Centre, Bolton | (Telephone: Bolton 22311) |

17. Venereal Diseases

Confidential treatment is available at the following Clinics:-

- (a) Civic Centre, Bolton.
- (b) St. Luke's Clinic, Duke Street, Liverpool Road, Manchester, 3.
- (c) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
- (d) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh. Sick bed nursing requisites and appliances are available free on loan from the Divisional Health Office or District Nursing Sisters - Mrs. Hulme, 6 Washacre, Westhoughton, (Telephone: Westhoughton 3384); Mrs. Barge, 1 Clough Avenue, Westhoughton (Telephone: Westhoughton 3323).

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service

Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed full time by the Lancs. C.C. in the district.

Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to the Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses are employed full time in the District by the Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals

Royal Infirmary, Bolton.

Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Maternity Homes

"Haslan", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton.
"Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

Mental Health

This service is a most important part of the new Health Service, and on application to the Divisional Health Office, information and help can be obtained in respect of the mentally sick and mentally subnormal.

Midwifery Service

Two full time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancs. C.C. They are Mrs. J.A. Crabtree, 14 Allenby Grove, Westhoughton (Telephone: Westhoughton 2435) and Miss P. McGowan, 5 Clive Road, Westhoughton (Telephone 3751).

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. residential accommodation for aged or infirm persons is available at Atherleigh Grange and Hourigan House, Leigh and the Winifred Kettle House, Westhoughton and Wilfred Goese House, Farnworth.

Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee

This body, consisting of representatives of all local voluntary organisations interested in the care and welfare of the aged, works in close association with the statutory services. Amongst the many services it organises and provides, are visiting, chiropody and meals on wheels. The Hon. Secretary is Miss S.E. Whittle, 64 Dobb Brow Road, Westhoughton.

X-Ray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest X-Ray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply Westhoughton with water which is satisfactory in regard to quality and quantity. There are several sources of supply, but the larger quantity comes from the Lake District. All water is treated before passing into supply.

During the year a total number of 684 samples of raw water were submitted by Bolton to bacteriological examination and partial chemical analysis in their statutory area of supply. In addition 1,416 samples of filtered and treated water received bacteriological examination and showed that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality. All water is treated before passing into supply.

Tests of the water show there is no significant plumbo-solvent action. No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. Water was supplied directly from the public mains to serve the total population of 17,430 persons. No houses are supplied by stand pipes.

During the year 2,091 yards of new water mains were completed and 803 yards of existing mains renewed.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This is largely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Rogers Farm and three subsidiary plants at Dicconson Lane; Dog Holes Farm and Marsh Brook. Difficulties in relation to sewage disposal and main drainage are apparent, and it is expected work will commence in the early part of 1969 on the construction of three storm tanks at Rogers Farm to act as temporary sedimentation tanks. This work will form part of a complete reconstruction of the Disposal Works.

Closet Accommodation

In nearly all cases accommodation consists of fresh water closets. A few pail closets are in use however, where main drainage is not available and certain outlying farms use privy middens. It is anticipated these will be replaced by water closets as the district develops.

Numbers and types of closet accommodation existing at the end of 1968 are shown overleaf, the figures for the end of 1967 being shown in comparison.

Closet Accommodation (cont'd)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Number of privy middens	20	20
Number of closets attached to these middens	24	24
Number of pail closets	41	42
Number of dry ashpits	-	-
Number of moveable ashbins	7049	6927
Number of trough closets	-	-
Number of waste water closets	11	11
Number of fresh water closets	6795	6673

Conversions during 1968:-

Number of privy closets to fresh W.C.'s.	-
Number of privy closets to pails	-
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	-
Number of premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles	-
Trough closets to washdown pedestals	-
Number of pail closets to fresh W.C.'s	-

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Eighteen men and four vehicles are employed emptying about 7049 bins weekly; collecting waste paper for salvage and other trade refuse. Important provisions of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967 came into operation during the year and were given wide publicity by the Council. Larger items of domestic refuse such as old furniture; bedsteads etc. are removed from dwellings free of charge and over three hundred request for such removals received attention between April and December, 1968. Arrangements were made for the removal and disposal of sixteen derelict motor vehicles during the year and in a further two cases statutory notices were served to effect the removal of two abandoned vehicles. Free facilities exist at Garnet Fold Tip Site for household and garden refuse to be brought to the tip for disposal by Westhoughton residents and the tip site is kept open on the first Saturday each month from 9 a.m. - 12 noon to give residents an additional opportunity to bring refuse for disposal. A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year.

Controlled tipping continues at the Garnet Fold site, off St. Helens Road, Westhoughton. I am satisfied that properly carried out controlled tipping on low lying land can restore ground to agricultural use and can be carried out without nuisance or detriment to amenity. The accent must be of course on proper control and I am glad to say the Council through their Health Committee, have always encouraged sound control of the tip site by providing suitable equipment for this very essential Public Health service.

Public Cleansing (cont'd)

A total of 416 dustbins were issued during the year under the dustbin replacement scheme relating to domestic premises. An experiment in the use of larger capacity $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic ft. plastic dustbins with rubber lids proved successful. These bins are light, hygienic and should have a long life provided of course care is taken by householders to ensure hot ashes are not placed in the bin. Evidence so far is that they are well liked by the public and by the refuse collectors. A number of paper sacks are in use at flats and outlying premises.

Street cleansing including litter collection is carried out under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Salvage

The collection of waste paper and tins was as follows:-

	<u>Waste paper</u>	<u>Loose tins</u>	<u>Income</u>
1968	95 tons 18 cwts.	8 tons 19 cwts 3 qrs.	£777
1967	107 tons 17 cwts.	6 tons 3 cwts 1 qr.	£867

Tins have continued to be removed from the tip in the normal process of controlled tipping.

<u>Public Health Inspections</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Premises visited	4,338	3,666
Number of visits:-	6,044	5,049
Housing and nuisances	2,107	1,788
Factories	49	47
Infectious diseases	7	44
Food poisoning	-	-
Rodent control	30	3
Offensive trade	61	61
Schools	13	12
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	60	70
Shops (Employment of Young Persons)	454	452
Slaughterhouses	-	-
Food premises	352	398
Clean Air	2,418	1,936
Miscellaneous	455	214
Noise	38	24
Defects or nuisances:-		
Number discovered	748	906
Number abated	1,176	420
No. of Notices served:-		
Informal	175	145
Statutory	30	20

Public Health Inspections (cont'd)

There was again a considerable increase in the number of inspections carried out under the Clean Air Act 1956. The inspection figure for 1966 was 720 compared to the present figure of 2,418. While too much emphasis should not be placed on inspection figures they are a pointer to the fact that a considerable and worthwhile effort is being made at Westhoughton to achieve a cleaner atmosphere and it is desired to pay tribute to the enthusiasm of the Council's Smoke Control Technical Officer. Noise control has become increasingly important and the opportunity to comment on planning proposals at an early stage has proved beneficial. It is always far easier to take preventative measures before a noise nuisance occurs. A dust nuisance in the Hilton House area of Westhoughton arising from Motorway works was abated after representations made to the Contractors. One thousand and five requests for attention to a wide range of matters were recorded in the office during the year.

Outwork

There were 10 outworkers in the district. 7 were employed packing Xmas Crackers; one employed on garment manufacture; one on Carry-cot manufacture and one finishing household linen and bedding.

Shops

There were 454 inspections of shops carried out in relation to hours of employment of young persons under the provisions of the Shops Act 1950. Individual contraventions were reported to Lancashire County Council for action.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This Act relates to the welfare of office and shop workers. There were one hundred registered premises in the district at the end of the year. This figure included sixty two retail shops; twenty-two offices and fourteen catering establishments. Sixty inspections of registered premises were carried out. The number of persons employed at registered premises totalled four hundred and thirty three - and hundred and ninety five males and two hundred and thirty eight females.

No accidents were reported during the year.

A summary of cases where compliance has been requested and of work done is given below:-

Requirements of the Act relating to:-	No. of cases where compliance requested	No. of cases where work done
Sanitary conveniences	3	14
Washing facilities	4	8

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 (cont'd)

Requirements of the Act relating to:-	No. of cases where compliance requested	No. of cases where work done
Cleanliness	3	7
Overcrowding	-	-
Temperature	1	3
Ventilation	1	3
Lighting	2	3
Drinking water	-	-
Accommodation for clothing	1	1
Sitting facilities	-	-
Seats for sedentary workers	-	-
Eating facilities	-	-
Floors, passages, stairs	-	11
Thermometers	4	7
First Aid	8	15
Fencing of machinery	2	5
Abstract of the Act	8	10

This Act has placed upon Public Health Inspectors important new duties particularly in relation to safety in Offices and Shops. The importance of adequately guarding food slicing machinery cannot be over emphasised and the need to ensure all employees, but particularly young people, are fully aware of safety precautions when using dangerous machinery needs stressing continually. The lighting of cellar staircases; provision of handrail and guarding of trap doors to cellars in licenced premises received considerable attention by the Inspectors.

Offensive Trades

A Fat Melters premises exist in the district and from time to time gives rise to complaints. Frequent inspections were made during the year and work to odour control plant as recommended by Consultants carried out. Both odour control and drainage are problems at the factory concerned. While this Trade performs an essential function in disposing of animal waste products it causes concern in the district which is genuine and understandable. Sixty one visits were made to the premises over the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Disinfestation

During the year infestations of insects were dealt with at twenty seven premises. Nine premises were treated against cockroach infestation using dieldrin powder or insecticidal lacquer. Several ant and silver fish infestations received treatment. A heavy infestation of poultry houses by the lesser housefly was successfully dealt with by using a new insecticide Fenchlorphos. Strings soaked in the insecticide were hung in the poultry houses.

Schools

The water supply to the schools in the area was found to be constant and sufficient. All schools now have modern type water closets and twelve inspections were carried out during the year. Regular cleansing and decoration of the conveniences is carried out. Inspections of school meals facilities and kitchens were carried out during the year and advice given as necessary.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1967

Eight Scrap Metal Dealers were registered at the end of the year. The enforcement of the Act in relation to the keeping of records is undertaken by the Police.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control

During 1968 the work of rodent control continued, the Cleansing Foreman carrying out treatment.

All rats and mice infestations are promptly dealt with, private dwellings being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used. Some resistance to Warfarin has been noted in relation to mice and a new poison "Alphakil" has been used with success.

Rodent Control (cont'd)

Two hundred and eighty six premises were inspected and seven hundred and fifty visits made to property either for the purposes of survey or for dealing with infestations. One hundred and eighty two rat infestations and ninety four mice infestations were found and treatment carried out. Forty two inspections of agricultural properties were undertaken in the course of the year. The treatment of the sewers using warfarin poison plus a bait preservative, was carried out as usual.

Moveable Dwellings

Little action was necessary in relation to moveable dwellings. Advice was given when required on the conditions normally imposed on sites licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. One site license was in operation during the year but no caravan was actually stationed on the site. One site certified by the Caravan Club for use by their members only as an overnight halt exists in the district.

Smoke Control

The Council's No. 4 Smoke Control Order in the Over Hulton area of Westhoughton was made and confirmed by the Ministry during the year. The Area includes 692 private dwellings and covers 142 acres of land. A wide choice of smokeless fuel appliances are available to owners or occupiers in the Area. Where solid fuel is chosen grant is available in eligible cases to convert coal burning appliances to those capable of burning the full range of solid smokeless fuel including hard coke or Sunbrite. The high efficiency and overnight burning capability of the modern Roomheater has commended itself to many householders while the advantages of piped fuels such as gas; electric and oil have special advantages for those who desire quick heat on tap. By the 1st October, 1969 when the No. 4 Area comes into operation over 1660 dwellings will be subject to Smoke Control. Towards the end of the year survey work commenced on the proposed No. 5 Smoke Control Area adjoining the No. 4 Area and containing 514 dwellings and covering 820 acres of land. This Area if approved, is scheduled to come into operation on the 1st October, 1970. The average cost of firegrate conversions approved for grant so far in the No. 4 Area is fifty three pounds per dwelling. Seven-tenths of this expenditure is paid as grant by the Council. Many householders have of course chosen to install central heating systems at a higher cost than that eligible for grant but they have taken this opportunity to modernise their property and improve standards of heating in the home.

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution.

Smoke and sulphur dioxide measurement has continued throughout the year at the Library Street site, and as in previous years pollution was highest during the months October to March when domestic fires were in general use.

The average pollution recorded for the year was 121 microgrammes of smoke per cubic metre of air, and 129 microgrammes of sulphur dioxide, again showing a decrease on the previous year. This decrease in atmospheric pollution, in common with most parts of the country, is continuous year by year, and the measurements taken this year at the Library Street site show a reduction of 47% in smoke and 39% in sulphur dioxide compared with the measurements taken in 1962.

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

Dairy farmers are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Licences to sell special designated milk namely, "Pasteurised", "Sterilised", "Ultra Heat Treated" and "Untreated" are issued by Lancashire County Council as Food and Drugs Authority for the area. Milk Distributors licences continue to be issued by the Council.

Action taken by the local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

a) Raw Milk

(i) Tuberculosis - Biological Test

No. of samples	4	No. negative	4	No. positive	Nil
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(ii) Brucellosis - Ring Test

No. of samples	108	No. negative	74	No. positive	34
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Brucellosis - Culture Test

No. of samples	34	No. negative	25	No. positive	9
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Brucellosis - Biological Test

No. of samples	3	No. negative	2	No. positive	1
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(iii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples	42	No. satisfactory	34	No. unsatisfactory	8
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b) "Heat Treated" milk - pasteurised

(i) Phosphatase Test

No. of samples	9	No. satisfactory	9	No. unsatisfactory	Nil
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(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples	9	No. satisfactory	9	No. unsatisfactory	Nil
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c) "Heat Treated" milk - sterilised

(i) Turbidity Test

No. of samples	2	No. satisfactory	2	No. unsatisfactory	Nil
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Five cattle infected with brucellosis were slaughtered. One farmer discontinued the sale of untreated milk due to his cattle being infected by brucellosis

No notifications of tuberculous milk were forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cream

Four samples were taken. Two samples were provisionally graded satisfactory; one fairly satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. These samples were taken to assist the Public Health Laboratory in their research work.

Ice-cream

Eighty six premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, which is "pre-packed" with the exception of one shop selling a "Cold Mix" product and a manufacturer's premises producing "Hot Mix" ice-cream.

Nine samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and all were found to be in the provisional Grade 1.

Ninety six inspections in relation to premises and vehicles were carried out during the year.

Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

Four samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test proved satisfactory. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

Food premises

No. of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year:-

Type of business	No.	A	B	C
General grocers and provision dealers	57	57	57	57
Greengrocers and fruiterers	8	8	8	8
Fishmongers	1	1	1	1
Meat Shops	12	12	12	12
Bakers and/or confectioners	14	14	14	14
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	7	7	7	7
Licensed premises, Clubs, canteens, restaurants, snack bars, catering establishments	61	61	61	61

NOTE: Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 in table above

- A - Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 relating to washbasins.
- B - Premises to which Regulation 19 relating to sinks applies.
- C - Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19 in relation to sinks for washing food or equipment.

A total of 352 visits were made to food premises during the year. 87 defects were found under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 174 defects were remedied during the year.

It was again emphasised at food premises the vital importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and no amount of sophisticated equipment will displace the importance of "elbow grease". The temperature control of meat, fish, gravy and similar products was stressed as being of vital importance. Catering establishments should ensure that food is consumed as soon as practicable after preparation. Where meat dishes etc are kept for any length of time prior to consumption rapid cooling within an hour and a half and subsequent refrigeration is essential. If subsequent reheating of meat dishes must take place the food must be brought quickly to boiling point throughout its mass.

Thirty five inspections of mobile food stalls were carried out during the year. It is apparent that Food Regulations covering mobile shops are now achieving improved standards and traders in general are anxious to co-operate.

Meat

No slaughterhouses were in operation in the district during the year. The inspection of meat and meat products is carried out at food shops as a routine procedure.

Food Condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Tinned meat	682 lbs.	Tinned milk	13 lbs.
Tinned fruit	407 lbs.	Tinned fish	13 lbs.
Tinned vegetables	745 lbs.	Tinned soup	62 lbs.
Tinned rice pudding	49 lbs	Poultry	2212 lbs.
Frozen liquid egg	56 lbs	Cod fillets	340 lbs
Tinned cream	23 lbs		

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority in the district. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:-

A total of 131 samples was obtained comprising 107 milks (of which nine were Channel Islands milk) and 24 others as follows:-

1 Christmas Pudding	1 Fresh vegetables
1 Ice cream	1 Coffee Extract, dry
1 Ice Lollies	1 Cold mixture
1 Laxative Chewing Gum	1 Cut Mixed Peel
1 Calamine Lotion B.P.	1 Dried vegetables
2 Fresh fruit	1 Meat, canned

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (cont'd)

1 Malt & Cocoa Beverage	1 Cooking Fat
1 Barley	1 Cheese Spread with Mushroom
1 Buttermilk	2 Whisky
1 Brandy	2 Rum
1 Gin	

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Formal milk	Fat 3.90%. Deficient 2.5% fat	Producer cautioned and further sample obtained.
Informal milk	Contained a broken matt of fungus of mucor species, in 5 pieces one of these measuring 28 millimetres x 5 millimetres and the other 45 millimetres x 5 millimetres all about 1 millimetre thick, together with the remains of 2 small flies. Total weight 160 milligrams.	Producer cautioned
Malt & Cocoa Beverage	Vitamin B content only 0.17 milligram per ounce compared with 0.3 milligram per ounce declared.	Manufacturer notified.
Informal milk	Freezing point indicates 0.5% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.

Poultry Inspection

(1) Number of poultry processing premises within district.....	1
(11) Number of visits to these premises	43
(111) Total number of birds processed during the year	131,780
(1V) Types of birds processed - hens; broilers; capons; turkeys	
(V) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	1.41%
(VI) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	8930

Poultry Inspection (cont'd)

- (V11) Regular visits are made to the premises and carcasses showing evidence of disease are rejected by the operator or in doubtful cases set aside for inspection by the Public Health Department. Reasonable food hygiene conditions are maintained but improvements to buildings and drainage are necessary.

SECTION E

Housing

Statistics

One hundred and forty four dwellings were completed during the year by private builders. Thirteen council flats and eight maisonnettes were under construction at the end of the year.

Conditions - General Observations

1,271 dwellings in Westhoughton are owned and maintained by the Council and this number represents about 20% of domestic properties in the district. About 87% of the privately owned dwellings are owner/occupied. The Council continue to give every encouragement for owners to improve their houses where the property has a satisfactory life of at least 15 years.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

There are 401 applicants on the Council's Housing List. 326 of the applicants are however already householders and 98 of these are Council tenants desiring bungalow accommodation. The main housing requirements relate to rehousing from the Council's Slum Clearance Programme. The need is for more bungalow accommodation to release under occupied houses for family use. Twenty nine council houses were improved during the year by the provision of better bathroom accommodation; heating arrangements and kitchen facilities. A further ten houses were in an advanced stage of improvement by the end of the year. The preservation and improvement of the Council's housing stock is economically sound and has an important part to play in raising living standards in the district. All schemes of this nature encounter teething troubles but in the long term are of considerable benefit and it is hoped will be pursued with vigour.

Fitness of Houses

Two thousand one hundred and seven inspections were carried out during the year in relation to the fitness of houses. Defects were remedied at 197 houses as a result of the service of notices or other action by the Department. The number and type of defects found and remedied by the end of the year are shown below:-

Type of Defects at dwellinghouses	Found	Remedied
Drains	58	73
Roofs	43	46
Chimneys	12	27
Eavesgutters	47	53
Rainwater pipes	15	23
Walls	49	72
Damp	79	109
Wallplaster	60	92
Ceiling Plaster	31	68

Fitness of Houses (cont'd)

Type of Defects at dwellinghouses	Found	Remedied
Sinks	2	7
Sink Waste	6	9
Skirtings	3	4
Floors	32	53
Stairs	2	4
Windows	98	107
Ventilation	-	25
Doors	25	26
Food storage	-	9
Food preparation	-	-
Food cooking	-	-
Lighting (Natural)	-	22
Firegrates	11	14
Closets	28	40
Yards and passages	8	16
Other defects	8	2
	<hr/> Total 607 <hr/>	<hr/> 901 <hr/>

One Clearance Area consisting of fifteen dwellings was represented to the Council as unfit and six individual unfit houses were represented or the subject of informal report during the year. Thirty three unfit houses were demolished and three houses closed. Nineteen families including sixty one people were rehoused during the year. Two Closing Orders were revoked after substantial renovation had been carried out. A total of 180 unfit houses remain to be demolished. Seventy eight of these houses have already been represented as unfit. The Council's present Slum Clearance Programme covers the period 1967/72.

Fifty eight applications for Standard Improvement Grants to provide the five standard amenities - ie. a fixed bath or shower; a wash hand basin; a hot water supply; an internally situated water closet and satisfactory food storage facilities were submitted to the Council and fifty seven of these applications were approved. Work was completed at forty six houses during the year.

Two discretionary grant applications were approved by the Council and thirty nine applications submitted by the Council to the Ministry in relation to Council houses. The improvement of a further two hundred and thirty Council houses is under consideration by the Council and is likely to be carried out as a phased programme in three stages.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over infectious and other diseases

Diphtheria

No case occurred in the district. The need to continue immunisation however, remains.

Dysentery

No case was notified.

Erysipelas

One case was notified.

Food Poisoning

This disease is notifiable under Section 26 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. No cases were notified during the year.

Measles

A total of 33 notifications were received.

Meningococcal Infection

No case was notified.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

No case was notified.

Poliomyelitis

No case reported. The need to continue immunisation is important.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No case was notified.

Scarlet Fever

Two cases were notified as against five cases in 1967. Again this disease was mild in character and no complications were reported.

Smallpox

No case or contact reported.

Section F (cont'd)

Tuberculosis

One new case of Respiratory tuberculosis was notified during the year.

Whooping Cough

Three cases were notified.

Acute Pneumonia

No case was notified.

Corrected cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis)
notified during the year 1968.

Cases notified													
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Age un-known	Total Death	Cases re-moved to Hospital
Diphtheria	-												
Dysentery	-												
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-												
Erysipelas	1								1				
Food Poisoning	-												
Measles	33	3	14	14	1						1		
Meningococcal Infection	-												
Acute Pneumonia	-												
Polioencephalitis	-												
Poliomyelitis	-												
Paratyphoid Fever	-												
Puerperal Pyrexia	-												
Scarlet Fever	2	-		1	1								
Smallpox	-												
Whooping Cough	3		1		2				1				
Total	38	3	15	15	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1968

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non respiratory		Respiratory		Non respiratory	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45								
55								
65	1					1		
and over								
	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	1		-		1		-	

Number of cases on Register at end of year:-

Respiratory Tuberculosis: 27

Non-respiratory Tuberculosis: 11

SECTION G

Factories Act, 1961

Visits to factories during the year showed that standards of sanitary accommodation are generally satisfactory. Co-operation with firms was good and legal action to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act was found unnecessary. Cotton Spinning and Weaving; Steel Erecting; Metal Box Manufacture; Manufacturing Chemists; Paint; Raincoat and Plasterboard Manufacture are the chief industries in the area.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	1	1	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	77	42	2	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers premises).	6	6	2	Nil
	87	49	5	Ni

Factories Act, 1961 (cont'd)

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H. M. Insp.(4)	By H. M. Insp.(5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	6	8	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork	-	-	-	-	-
	7	9	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Ten outworkers are employed in the district.

Nature of work (1)	Section 110		Section 111			
	No. of out workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) C. (2)	No. of defaults in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Packing Xmas Crackers	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Garment Manufacture	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Household Linen and Bedding	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carry-cot Manufacture	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION H

HOME SAFETY

A Safety Committee was appointed by the Council to deal with both Home Safety and Road Safety matters. All members of the Council served on the Committee and also the following persons not being members of the Council, namely:-

Mr. J.W. Todd (Rospa)	Miss J. A. Evans
Mr. R. Greaves	Mr. D. Roberts
Mr. G. Halliwell	The Inspector of Police
Mr. L. Smalley	Chief Fire Officer Representative
Dr. S.L. McKinley	

A Home Safety trailer provided by Lancashire County Council toured Westhoughton during 'Wakes' weekend Saturday 24th August. Local school children were on the trailer and the theme of the display was 'Safety around the home'. Publicity literature relating to many aspects of Home Safety was displayed in the Library Foyer and proved popular with the public. Publicity material relating to fireworks was distributed to local shops for the 5th of November.

Following representatives by the Safety Committee to the Lancashire and Cheshire Home Safety Council the Area Council resolved that it wished to be associated with and remind the National Home Safety Committee of the following dangers

- (1) inexperienced workmanship leaving in fixed positions old electric plugs on live circuits.
- (11) the sale and use of plugs into which children's fingers can be inserted, and
- (111) the fixing of plugs in positions inconvenient to use by aged persons.

It was agreed by the Area Council to use these matters for publicity purposes, and that the Blind Schools should be asked for their advice on the right height for siting plugs in the homes of elderly people.

It is difficult to over stress the importance of Home Safety when it is realised that accidents in the home during 1966 resulted in 8,583 deaths and regularly exceed road accident deaths. Reasonable and common sense safety precautions in the home are not difficult or costly to achieve but require care and thought.

